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8 December 1965

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 8 December 1965

25X1 [] of ORR gave a background briefing on problems underlying Chinese Communist industrial, trade, and agricultural sectors.

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DD/I tabled a map prepared by OBI concerning the status of provincial grain harvests in South Vietnam.

DD/I noted a call he had received from Carl Rowan, who wanted to know if it was true that CIA provided valuable intelligence support as a basis for national policy decisions. DD/I told Rowan that this was true.

DD/I noted completion of an ORR report on the "sluggishness" of Soviet foreign trade.

DD/I noted completion of a report on the ChiCom economic prospects. He recommended that DCI make an elite distribution of this report to key Government officials.

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Smith reported on the precarious situation in Guatemala where there are reports of coup preparations. It was agreed that this situation would be covered []

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Kent reported on the status of the SNIE on Vietnam which is to be discussed at USIB on 10 December. Dissents are expected from INR. Kent said that it is planned to prepare an annex to this SNIE which will be put before USIB for clearance next week dealing with the subject of the importance and significance of Cambodia as a supply point for Communist military operations in Vietnam. DCI reaffirmed the need to stress the importance of Cambodia in this respect and to elaborate in the SNIE on the nature of ChiCom intervention in Vietnam as we foresee it.

Houston noted Senator Symington's recent visit to Bangkok and the [redacted] Houston also noted that Symington told [redacted] that he will become a member of our Senate Subcommittee. DCI reminded that the DD/I and [redacted] are to arrange to meet with Symington sometime between 5 and 19 December in Honolulu to brief and debrief him. (At the same time, it is planned that Senator Jackson will be debriefed by DD/I and [redacted] in Honolulu following Jackson's recent trip through the Far East.)

Houston reported that staff member Kelleher of the House Armed Services Committee was impressed by Agency briefings he received here yesterday.

Bross reported that he and [redacted] met with General Maxwell Taylor yesterday per Taylor's request to discuss the role and function of the DCI. Taylor was interested in [redacted] work as China coordinator, and [redacted] is to meet with Taylor tomorrow.

[redacted] for DD/S&T reported steps taken to work out arrangements with [redacted] which will permit resumption of TACKLE operations.

[redacted] reported that he and Flax will be going to [redacted] this evening to be there during a forthcoming operational readiness exercise involving OXCART.

[redacted] noted that [redacted] aboard the OXCART intended to facilitate refueling with tankers has recently begun to operate well for the first time.

In answer to the DCI's query about the status of [redacted] reported on the satisfactory nature of current views and recommendations of various committees at work on the project.

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DCI queried the current status of arrangements to ensure that requests for slots and money for our [] are included in budgetary requests. He was assured this is the case.

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ACTIONS:

1. DCI requested preparation of an in-house paper dealing with the consequences and implications of Chinese Communist intervention in Vietnam as this may affect policy considerations. The paper should consider reactions of various foreign governments to such an event. (DD/I with input from DD/P and SAVA by 17 December)

2. DCI requested that distribution of the current SNIE on [] be expedited so that senior officials may have the paper in hand prior to next week's visit [] Transmittal letters are to be prepared for DCI's signature. (DD/I - In the course of the day)

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3. DCI requested that a presentation be made at the Morning Meeting tomorrow on the performance characteristics of U. S. and Communist arms being used in Vietnam. (DD/I)

4. DCI referred to a recent DD/I memo on the current strength of the North Vietnamese army. He noted that this was disseminated only internally and asked DD/I to consider outside distribution.

5. DCI noted a recent DD/I memo on Soviet military doctrine concerning night operations. DCI requested that this be made a more formal report, complete with pictures, and disseminated externally. (DD/I by 17 December)

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L. K. White

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